What is claimed is:

1. A method of accessing a group in a clustered computer system, wherein the clustered computer system includes a plurality of nodes, and wherein the group includes a plurality of members resident respectively on the plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

(a) receiving an access request on a first node in the plurality of nodes, wherein the access request identifies a cluster-private group name associated with the group; and

(b) processing the access request on the first node to initiate a group operation on at least a subset of the plurality of nodes that map to the cluster-private group name.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the access request with a user job resident on the first node.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising forwarding the access request to a clustering infrastructure resident in the first node via a call from the user job.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) generating the access request with a user job resident on a second node in the plurality of nodes; and

(b) processing the access request with a proxy job resident on the second node by communicating the access request to the first node.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the proxy job is a member of a cluster control group, the method further comprising:

(a) forwarding the access request from the user job to the proxy job; and

(b) forwarding the access request from the proxy job to a clustering infrastructure resident in the second node via a call from the proxy job.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving the cluster-private group name with a user job by accessing a cluster-private data structure.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the cluster-private data structure is resident on the same node as the user job.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the cluster-private data structure is accessible only from the node upon which the cluster-private data structure is resident.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the cluster-private data structure is accessible only by jobs that are resident on the node upon which the cluster-private data structure is resident.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the group operation comprises distributing messages to a plurality of group members resident on the nodes that map to the cluster-private group name.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein initiating the group operation further comprises accessing a group address data structure to retrieve a plurality of network addresses associated with the cluster-private group name, wherein distributing messages to the plurality of group members includes sending a message to each of the plurality of network addresses.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the group operation is performed by a clustering infrastructure resident on the first node.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein initiating the group operation includes retrieving with the clustering infrastructure a plurality of addresses that are mapped to the cluster-private group name in a data structure that is local to the clustering infrastructure.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the group operation includes locally resolving on the first node a mapping between the cluster-private group name and a plurality of addresses associated with at least the subset of the plurality of nodes.

15. An apparatus, comprising:

(a) a memory accessible by a first node among a plurality of nodes in a clustered computer system; and

(b) a program resident in the memory and executed by the first node, the program configured to access a group that includes a plurality of members resident respectively on the plurality of nodes by receiving an access request that identifies a cluster-private group name associated with the group, and processing the access request to initiate a group operation on at least a subset of the plurality of nodes that map to the cluster-private group name.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a user job configured to generate the access request.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the program comprises a clustering infrastructure resident on the first node.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a proxy job configured to forward the access request from the user job to the clustering infrastructure.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

(a) a cluster-private data structure configured to store the cluster-private group name; and

(b) a user job configured to access the cluster-private data structure to retrieve the cluster-private group name and generate the access request therefrom.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the cluster-private data structure is resident on the same node as the user job.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the cluster-private data structure is accessible only from the node upon which the cluster-private data structure is resident.

22. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a group address data structure configured to store a plurality of network addresses associated with the cluster-private group name, wherein the program is configured to initiate the group operation by accessing the group address data structure to retrieve the plurality of network addresses and sending a message to each of the plurality of network addresses.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the program comprises a clustering infrastructure, and wherein the group address data structure is local to the clustering infrastructure.

24. The method of claim 15, wherein the program is further configured to process the access request by locally resolving on the first node a mapping between the cluster-private group name and a plurality of addresses associated with at least the subset of the plurality of nodes.

25. A clustered computer system, comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes coupled to one another over a network;

(b) a group including a plurality of members resident respectively on the plurality of nodes; and

(c) a program resident in a first node among the plurality of nodes and configured to access the group by receiving an access request that identifies a cluster-private group name associated with the group, and processing the access request to initiate a group operation on at least a subset of the plurality of nodes that map to the cluster-private group name.

26. A program product, comprising:

(a) a program resident in the memory and executed by a first node among a plurality of nodes in a clustered computer system, the program configured to access a group that includes a plurality of members resident respectively on the plurality of nodes by receiving an access request that identifies a cluster-private group name associated with the group, and processing the access request to initiate a group operation on at least a subset of the plurality of nodes that map to the cluster-private group name; and

(b) a signal bearing medium bearing the program.

27. The program product of claim 26, wherein the signal bearing medium includes at least one of a transmission medium and a recordable medium.